



SUB-COMMITTEE ON
RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH
AND RESCUE
4th session
Agenda item 3

COMSAR 4/3/18
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GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM

Draft Assembly resolution on Criteria for provision of mobile-satellite communications for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System

Note by the United States

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 45.4 of the Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the MSC and the MEPC and their subsidiary bodies (MSC/Circ.816/MEPC/Circ.331). The United States supports the intent of the proposed changes described in Denmark's draft Assembly resolution on Criteria for provision of mobile-satellite communications for the GMDSS. Before the Criteria are adopted however, we believe it should include relevant IMO resolutions, and should consider standard means for collecting maritime safety information for broadcast. Additionally, we believe mobile-satellite service providers should be encouraged to provide routing of Automatic Location Identification (ALI) and Automatic Number Identification (ANI) and pass distress calls directly to responsible RCCs, when that capability is available. The criteria should also be used by Administrations when permitting regional satellite systems to be carried aboard its ships to meet national or regional maritime safety requirements.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 4

Related documents: COMSAR 4/3/5, COMSAR 3/14, MSC 70/23

Introduction

1 This document is the United States comments to Denmark's draft Assembly resolution on Criteria for provision of mobile-satellite communications for the GMDSS, COMSAR 4/3/5.

2 The United States supports the proposed changes submitted by Denmark, and supports the provision for additional mobile-satellite service (MSS) providers to be recognized as participating in the GMDSS. However, before approving this Assembly resolution, care should be taken to ensure that any new satellite system meet all of existing IMO performance standards and Assembly resolutions currently required of Inmarsat. Additionally we wish to ensure that agencies which provide maritime safety

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information (MSI) for broadcast over MSS systems (e.g., Inmarsat-C SafetyNET) are not burdened with having to provide the same information to an increasing number of MSS providers, possibly in various formats.

3 Agencies responsible for search and rescue require that distress calls be routed as quickly and as directly as possible to the responsible rescue co-ordination centre, and that calls include identification, position and other relevant information concerning the vessel or person in distress. As MSS technology develops, there will be a corresponding increase in the quantity and quality of information that the MSS providers will have available to them. At this time, the United States Federal Communications Commission is conducting a rule-making to determine whether an advanced version of E-911 and/or other means of user identification and position location should be incorporated into MSS systems to improve emergency communications. In the United States, automatic caller number and location information (ANI and ALI) is required for emergency wireline and cellular/PCS/SMR telephone calls. Maritime rescue co-ordination centres should be able to automatically receive the same information for distress calls from MSS providers, as the technology to do so becomes available. This type of information, if provided, would prove extremely helpful to the SAR community.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

4 The Sub-Committee is invited to:

- .1 include the following Assembly resolutions as references in support of functional requirements in the criteria for provision of mobile-satellite communications for the GMDSS:
 - resolution A.707(17) "Charges for Distress, Urgency and Safety Messages through the Inmarsat System";
 - resolution A.801(19) "Provision of Radio Services for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)", Annex 5 "Criteria for use when providing Inmarsat shore-based facilities for use in the GMDSS";
 - draft Assembly resolution (MSC 70/23/Add.1, annex 4) "Establishment, Updating and Retrieval of the Information Contained in the Registration Databases for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)";
 - resolution A.694(17) "General requirements for shipborne radio equipment forming part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and for electronic navigational aids";
 - IMO International SafetyNET Manual;
 - resolution A.664(16) "Performance Standards for Enhanced Group Call Equipment"; and
 - appropriate IEC Standards and ITU Recommendations;

- .2 include the following in the criteria for provision of mobile-satellite communications for the GMDSS. Mobile-satellite service providers should be encouraged to:
- route Automatic Location Identification (ALI) and Automatic Number Identification (ANI) in accordance with appropriate ITU-T Recommendations with distress calls originating from MSS terminals directly to responsible RCCs for voice and data calls;
 - automatically route information contained in registration databases in accordance with draft Assembly resolution (MSC 70/23/Add.1, annex 4) in a recognizable format with the distress call to the responsible RCC, once means are established for doing so;
 - be capable of retrieving maritime safety information in a timely manner from NAVAREA, METAREA, and SARAREA co-ordinators, and the International Ice Patrol, in a standard format and process established by those co-ordinators;
 - broadcast maritime safety information (MSI) in accordance with the relevant provisions of the IMO International SafetyNET Manual; and
- .3 add to the request of the MSC to circulate the annex to Administrations for use when permitting regional satellite systems to be carried aboard its ships to meet maritime safety requirements on a regional or national basis.
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